

Message Text

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51 73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 EB-11 COME-00 OMB-01 SS-20 NSC-10 H-03 DRC-01

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R 061823Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5286

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBSSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 31290

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 31290 VICE 3190)

.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, EFIN, NATO, FR.

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL BURDENSARING

REF: (A) STATE 231268 (B) USNATO 5794

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: WE HAVE PRESSED QUAI AND MOD ON BURDENSARING.

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FRENCH RESPONSE WAS TOTALLY NEGATIVE.END SUMMARY.

2. IN FOLLOWING UP AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD'S PRESENTATION OF NOVEMBER 29, WE HAVE TALKED WITH SCHRICKE, QUAI ASSISTANT SECRETARY-LEVEL CHIEF OF NATO AND DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS, THE QUAI PLANNING STAFF AND MOD OFFICIALS, LEAVING COPIES OF AMB RUMSFELD'S STATEMENT (REF B). DRAWING ON GUIDANCE IN REF A, WE UNDERLINED IMPORTANCE OF ALLIANCE PULLING TOGETHER TO MEET PROBLEMS POSED BY JACKSON-NONN AMENDMENT. NOTING THAT PRESIENT POMPIDOU, FONMIN JOBERT AND OTHERS HAVE REPEATEDLY CALLED FOR RETENTION OF U.S. TROOPS IN EUROPE, WE URGED THAT GOF TAKE ACTION TO SUPPORT THAT GOAL BY PARTICIPATION IN NATO'S BURDEN-SHARING EFFORT.

3. SCHRIKE SAID GOF THOUGHT FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN BURDEN-SHARING EFFORT WOULD BE ILLOGICAL AND/OR FUTILE FOR SEVERAL REASONS. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SITUATION OF U.S. WAS IMPROVING SO DRAMATICALLY THAT FRENCH COULD NOT JUSTIFY SINGLING OUT FOR SPECIAL TTENTION U.S. BOP DEFICIT RELATED SOLELY TO STATIONING OF U.S. FORCES IN EUROPE. MOREOVER, ACCORDING TO GOF VIEW, U.S. WAS DETERMINED TO SEEK U.S. TROOP REDUCTIONS IN MBFR, REGARDLESS OF THE REALITIES OF THE MILITARY BLANCE IN EUROPE, AND THEREFORE SOME U.S. REDUCTIONS WERE INEVITABLE; ADDITIONAL U.S. REDUCTIONS THAT MIGHT BE REQUIRED BY JACKSON-NONN WOULD ONLY ACCENTUATE THE U.S. TREND TOWARD REDUCTIONS THAT THE FRENCH PERCEIVE TO BE BASIC U.S. POLICY. FURTHERMORE, CONTINUED SCHRICKE, THE DECISION WHETHER TO MAINTAIN U.S. FORCES IN EUROPE IS ONE ONLY THE U.S. CAN ANSWER. IF THE U.S., INCLUDING THE U.S. CONGRESS, NO LONGER HASTHE WILL TO KEEP AMERICAN TROOPS IN EUROPE, THERE IS NOTHING THE ALLIES CAN DO TO SUBSTITUTE FOR THE LACK OF WILL. FINALLY, SCHRICKE NOTED THAT U.S. SEEMED TO HAVE SHIFTED ITS DEFINITION OF BURDENSARING FROM IMPROVEENT TO NATIONAL FORCE POSTURES (AL GOAL THAT HAS THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE GOF), TO EMPHASIS ON FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF US. ACCORDING TO THE FRENCH VIEW, IT'S AN "EITHER-OR" PROPOSITION. FUNDS FROM ALLIED DEFESE BUDGETS THAT GO TOWARD BURDENSARING WILL BE AT THE EXPENSE OF NATIONAL FORCE IMPROVEMENTS. THIS, CONTINUED SCHRICKE, WOULD SIMPLY REINFORCE THE DOWNWARD TREND IN DEFENSE THE GOF NOTES IN THE FRG, DENMARK, BELGIUM, ITALY AND ELSEWHERE. IN CONCLUSION, SCHRICKE OPINED THAT IN VIEW OF THESE CONSIDERATIONS, FRANCE WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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NOT LIKELY TO CHANGE ITS POLICY ON BURDENSARING.

4. IN RESPONSE TO THSE ARGUMENTS, WE POINTED OUT THAT THE FACTS SIMPLY DO NOT SUPPORT CONTENTION THAT U.S. IS EMBARKED ON REDUCTION OF ITS FORCES IN EUROPE. OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS, IN FACT, OUR EUROPEAN DEPLOYMENTS HAVE REMAINED STEADY. THIS SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE OF U.S. RESOLVE TO MAINTAIN ITS FORES IN EUROPE. WE REJECTED SCHRICKE'S POINT THAT ONLY U.S.

CAN GENERATE WILL NEEDED TO KEEP ITS TROOPS IN EUROPE, NOTING THAT, IN "REAL WORLD," BEHAVIOR OF NATIONS IS AFFECTED BY NUMBER OF FACTORS DISTINCT FROM HYPOTHETICAL "NATIONAL WILL". U.S. CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURES WERE GROWING REALITY AND HAD TO BE MET. THE PROBLEM SIMPLY COULD NOT BE RATIONALIZED AWAY, AS FRENCH SEEM TO WISH. WE SAID THAT FRENCH SHOULD NOT CNCLUDE THAT U.S. HAD REDUCED ITS INTEREST IN ENCOURAGING IMPROVEMENTS IN ALLIED FORCE POSTURE. POINT OF SECDEF'S MILITARY BALANCE BRIEFING WAS TO DEMONSTRATE HOW FAR RATHER MODEST IMPROVEMENTS CAN GO TOWARD STRENGTHENING NATO'S STRATEGY OF DETERRENCE AND DEFENSE. FINALLY, WE POINTED OUT WHAT WE PERCEIVE AS FUNDAMENTAL CONTRADICTION BETWEEN PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY EXPRESSED VIEWS OF GOF TO EFFECT THAT EUROPEAN SECURITY REQUIRES CONTINUE PRESENCE OF U.S. FORCES, AND UNWILLINGNESS OF GOF TO TAKE THE ACTIONS THROUGH BURDENSARING TO SUPPORT ITS VIEWS ON NEED FOR U.S. TROOPS IN EUROPE. QUAI PLANNING STAFF AND MOD TOOK NOTE OF OUR RPERESENTATION, BT DID NOT COMMENT.

5. COMMENT: SCHRICKE'S COMMENTS ECHO TIMBRE OF DE ROSE'S LINE AT NATO. BARRING PERSONAL INTERVENTION BY THE SECRETARY WITH JOBERT, OR THE PRESIDENT WITH POMPIDOU, WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE CHANGE IN FRENCH RESISTANCE TO PARTICIPATION IN BURDENSARING. EVEN WITH SUCH INTERVENTION, WE ARE NOT CONFIDENT THAT GOF POLICY WOULD CHANGE. GDS.
IRWIN

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